

### PROJECT CONNECT



Thank you to NCM volunteers Mitch Brown, Merry Brown, Cyndy Tonkavich, Phil Harmon and a Project Connect Volunteer.

March 18 seems so long ago and at the same time seems like yesterday. Project Connect was scheduled for that day, but that is when our big snow storm of 2026 decided to come down on us. Hence, Project Connect was re-scheduled from March 18 to April 22, keeping the time. from 10:00am to 3:00pm. This little glitch, however, did not deter the success of the 2026 Project Connect.

Over 365 individuals registered for the event, representing at least an additional 356 family members. There were approximately 50 volunteers, 20 committee members, and 125 exhibitors. Free haircuts were offered, the MDOT had a booth at which people could register their cars, lunch was provided for all who attended by the Boyne City and Petoskey High School Culinary classes, and the list goes on and on.

Having a booth at Project Connect gave Northern Community Mediation an opportunity to talk with over 300 people to let them know about our services. Although an exhausting day, it was great fun.

### USELESS FACT

70% of skills taught during the live training are forgotten within three days. 36% of managers believe their training programs meet learner's' needs.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“When I get to work, I first hide because a good worker is hard to find.” ~ Anonymous

### MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLE REMINDER

There has been a slight change relating to the Mediator Roundtable. Unfortunately, we have had to change the date from Tuesday, May 19 to Wednesday, May 20. The time remains the same: 4:00pm to 5:30pm. The location remains the same: Northern Community Mediation (NCM) office. The incentives remain the same: wine, beer and popcorn. The topic remains the same:

- How can the NCM staff improve upon its services for you as a mediator?
- What are we doing that is helpful for you as a mediator?
- What are some of your frustrations that you experience as a mediator?
- Share with the group those situations when you were able to pump your fist and say, “Yes, that mediation went well!”
- Lastly, is there anything else on your mind?

All that we ask of you is to call (231.487.1771) and let us know if you will be participating. After all, we would not want to run out of popcorn.

### APPRECIATION GALA

This year's Appreciation Gala will be held on Tuesday, June 16 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at Executive Director Jane Millar's Bay View cottage, 1812 Fairview. Wine, beer, soft drinks and lots of appetizers will be served. This event is a celebration of all of the NCM personnel—be they board members, mediators, contributors, donors or staff. Electronic invitations will be sent out next week, but do not wait for the invitation. Put the date on your calendar now and remember to call NCM at 231.487.1771 for your RSVP.

### ADVANCED MEDIATOR TRAINING

An important date to get on your calendar is Friday, September 25. NCM will be offering an in-person, Advanced Mediator Training from 8:30am to 12:30pm on Agreement Writing. The class size is limited to 20 people and will be on a first-come, first serve basis. So, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/> on the NCM website and sign up for this workshop. This workshop is pending SCAO approval, which in all probability will be accepted since it has been previously offered. And, keep in mind that almost of the NCM mediators are overdue for Advanced Mediator Training. Some of the sticky wickets that will be addressed in the workshop are

- What is the importance of Who, What, Where, When, How and Why?
- What constitutes a partial agreement?
- Is a partial agreement binding?
- Can copies of notes be sent home with the parties?